

**DEDICATION OF DONALD BREN HALL  
DONALD BREN SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND  
MANAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA**

**SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA  
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**SPEECH BY  
AILEEN ADAMS, SECRETARY  
STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY**

On behalf of Governor Gray Davis, I am pleased to be here today to celebrate not only the grand opening of this magnificent facility, but to celebrate the values it represents. As Winston Churchill once said, "We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us." You have shaped a world-class sustainable building, but before long, Bren Hall will shape the lives of so many students, who in turn will shape their communities and the environment for the better.

As the member of the Governor's cabinet who is not only responsible for the construction and maintenance of state buildings, but also the allocation of billions of dollars for public school construction, I feel especially passionate about sustainable building issues, because they offer the ultimate win-win situation. When we build better buildings:

- It is a win for the environment because we preserve precious natural resources and enhance, rather than harm, the environment.
- It is a win for the employees who work in those buildings and the students who learn in them.
- It is a win for taxpayers, because sustainable buildings save money over the life cycle of the building.

The example you have set with Bren Hall will help motivate the state to ensure that every building we build is sustainable. But the impact of this building can go beyond even that. Perhaps now, more than at any other time in our state's history, we have the opportunity to follow this example and change the way we build buildings - - every school, every government building. Consider the current confluence of events:

- California's recent energy crisis heightened everyone's awareness of the need to conserve and use energy more efficiently. As the tag-line of our Flex Your Power campaign commercials say, "Conservation is a way of life." By reducing energy consumption in state buildings by 20%, by partnering with businesses, non-profit organizations, and consumers to reduce energy use statewide, by enacting the country's strongest energy efficient building standards, and by increasing the sale of Energy Star Certified home appliances by more than 100% in California, we avoided energy shortages last summer and reduced overall energy consumption statewide by 6.7% in 2001 and 10% at peak.

- The tragedy of September 11 and the ongoing crisis in the Middle East remind us of the importance of having diverse energy supplies, including renewable power.
- Local jurisdictions have embraced energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability by passing massive bond programs. For example, San Francisco voters passed Proposition B, a \$100 million solar and wind energy initiative that will enable San Francisco to produce more energy from the sun than any city in the United States. Other bond programs will support large investments in public school and community college construction.
- Drought conditions are now affecting an estimated 30% of the United States, reminding us of the need to use all natural resources efficiently -- water, electricity, forests, and the like.
- Our lifestyle finds us spending an estimated 90% of our time indoors -- mostly at home or in the office. Given that reality of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are rightfully focusing on the need to improve the quality of the indoor environment, just as we continue to focus on improving the quality of the external environment.

The vision that Bren Hall incorporates is the same that Governor Davis has articulated in two Executive Orders that deal with sustainability. Executive Order 16 set forth the Governor's Sustainable Building goals, while Executive Order 46 set forth the goal of siting state buildings in a way that best complements local smart growth planning.

One important area that the state is focusing on is public school construction. The passage of Proposition 1A has sparked a school building boom, with more than \$6 billion being distributed to school districts to support construction of new schools and modernization of existing schools. Because of the pressing need for new schools, this may be just the start of an education renaissance in school construction in California. A new, larger school bond is likely to appear before California's voters in November. With that comes the opportunity to ensure that schools meet rigorous sustainability standards.

And what better way to improve the quality of education in California's schools than to build better schools? School buildings are more than just bricks and mortar. Their

presence can teach students about the importance of the environment, recycling, solar power, and renewable energy. But perhaps more importantly, if built properly, schools can enhance learning. A Pacific Gas & Electric-funded study, for example, found that students who are exposed to daylight performed better academically than students who are not. If we encourage school districts, community colleges, and universities to build classrooms that include more natural lighting, that may contribute to better learning environments, which then contribute to the ultimate educational outcome – improved learning.

So the impact of Bren Hall will transcend the boundaries of UC Santa Barbara. It will impact the effort to build a new University of California campus in Merced -- the first major University to be built in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in the United States. As part of this development, we have already committed to protecting more than 22,000 acres of wetland habitats – an area equal to three-quarters of the City of San Francisco. By the time the campus is done, we hope to have protected somewhere between 40,000 to 50,000 acres of habitat. And like Bren Hall, that campus will be sustainable, incorporating such features as water re-use, photovoltaics, innovative building siting to enhance energy efficiency, waste diversion programs, and 20% less energy use than other UC campuses.

So I'm not just here to congratulate you. I am here to challenge you to partner with the state, the education system, the private sector, and the public to spread the message of sustainability. Know that the state is a willing partner in your efforts and that we share your values.

As we continue in this spirit of partnership, we are guided by the words of 19<sup>th</sup> Century artist John Ruskin, who observed that, "When we build, let us think that we build forever." Thank you for making Mr. Ruskin proud!